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**Senate**  
State of Minnesota

January 27, 2022

Commissioner Jim Schowalter  
Minnesota Management and Budget  
400 Centennial Building  
658 Cedar Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Commissioner,

The recent news stories about the FBI investigation of the nonprofit, Feeding Our Future, has us deeply concerned about the Minnesota Department of Education's (MDE) management of federal funds. According to the reports, Feeding Our Future has defrauded the U.S. Department of Agriculture of millions of dollars through a grant that was administered by our state's Department of Education. Very little of the money that flowed through MDE was used to feed children.

As a result, we are writing to request a detailed accounting of the funding provided by the federal government for auditing federal fund expenditures related to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, please describe any available federal funds that are permitted to be spent by the Legislature for additional auditing purposes. This request pertains to all federal funds received by the state of Minnesota for the purpose of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, including funding provided under:

- P.L. 116-136 – Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act
- P.L. 116-260 – Consolidated Appropriations Act
- P.L. 117-2 – American Rescue Plan Act
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We believe it is important to have oversight/transparency of federal COVID-19 funding expenditures.

Sincerely,

Sen. Roger Chamberlain

Sen. Michelle Benson

Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer

Sen. Mark Koran

Cc: Eric Nauman, Lead Fiscal Analyst  
Jenna Hofer, E-12 Education Fiscal Analyst